



Madrid, June 27, 2013

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 3775 / 13

SUBJECT: CALL FOR TENDERS – GBYP 05/2013 - MID-TIME REVIEW OF THE ICCAT ATLANTIC-WIDE RESEARCH PROGRAMME ON BLUEFIN TUNA (ICCAT/GBYP PHASE 4-2013)

I have the honor to transmit to you the attached Call for Tenders **GBYP 05/2013** for a “Mid-time Review” of the ICCAT Atlantic-Wide Research Programme on Bluefin Tuna (GBYP).

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Driss Meski
Executive Secretary

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Attachment: Call for Tenders GBYP 5/2013.

TERMS OF REFERENCE
CALL FOR TENDERS – GBYP 05/2013
MID-TIME REVIEW OF ICCAT-GBYP
ATLANTIC-WIDE RESEARCH PROGRAMME ON BLUEFIN TUNA
(ICCAT/GBYP Phase 4 – 2013)

Background

The ICCAT Atlantic-wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna (GBYP) was officially adopted by SCRS and the ICCAT Commission in 2008, after a long process. In 2003, as an input of the Working Group established by Rec. [02-11], SCRS presented the Commission with a research plan to improve knowledge on bluefin tuna, with a special focus on mixing between the two stocks (ICCAT, 2004, Col. Vol. Sci. Pap. ICCAT, 56(3): 987-1003). The various research elements included in this first proposal are still pertinent today, even though some other activities have been included in the following years. During the 16th Special Commission meeting (Marrakech, 2008), the SCRS chair submitted a detailed proposal to the Commission. The proposal was adopted by the Commission (ICCAT Report 2008-2009 (Part I), Vol1: 40) as Res.[08-06], which covered only the 2004 SCRS proposal. At the same time, the STACFAD Report (ICCAT Report 2008-2009 (Part I), Vol. 1: 42) included the agreement to endorse the Atlantic-wide research programme (ICCAT Report 2008-2009, (Part I), Vol. 1, Appendix 10 to Annex 9: 284-287), establishing three priorities in 2009 (Coordinator, data mining and Aerial surveys), other actions to be further discussed by SCRS in 2009 and the provision for the programme to be adjusted in the following years taking into account the evolution of its implementation and research needs.

The SCRS, in 2009, reviewed the 2008 updated research proposal submitted by SCRS chair and established the following priorities:

- a) Improve basic data collection through mining (including information from traps, observers, and VMS), developing methods to estimate sizes of fish caged, elaborating accurate CPUE indices for Mediterranean purse seine fleets, development of fisheries-independent information surveys and implementing a large scale well planned conventional and genetic tagging experiment;
- b) Improve understanding of key biological and ecological processes through electronic tagging experiments to determine habitat and migration routes, broad scale biological sampling of live fish to be tagged and dead fish landed (e.g. gonads, liver, otoliths, spines, etc.), histological analyses to determine bluefin tuna reproductive state and potential, and biological and genetics analyses to investigate mixing and population structure; ecological processes, including predator-prey relationships;
- c) Improve assessment models and provision of scientific advice on stock status through improved modelling of key biological processes (including growth and stock-recruitment), further developing stock assessment models including mixing between various areas, and developing and use of biologically realistic operating models for more rigorous management option testing.

The 2008 GBYP proposal also included the recommendation to form a GBYP “Steering Committee comprised of the SCRS Chair, ICCAT Executive Secretary and/or his Assistant, bluefin tuna Rapporteurs, and an outside expert with substantial experience in similar research undertakings from other RFMOs to guide and refine the programme as necessary” (ICCAT Report 2008-2009, (Part II), Vol. 2: page 224).

The GBYP was originally conceived as a six year program and with an overall budget of 19,135,000 Euros. It is now into its fourth year of operation and funding levels have been about 43.5% of those anticipated (7,677,000 Euros versus 17,635,000 Euros). The GBYP includes the following five research components in addition to a central coordination component:

- Data Mining
- Aerial Survey
- Biological Sampling
- Tagging
- Modelling

Objective of the mid-time review: TORs

ICCAT, following the recommendation of the GBYP Steering Committee, is seeking an independent peer review of the progress of the GBYP relative to the underlying objectives based on the following terms of reference:

- Review the main objectives of the programme and the adequacy of the research components to achieve these objectives.
- For each of the scientific components, review the progress to date relative to the basic objectives for that component taking into account the available resources.
- For each of the scientific components, review the appropriateness and adequacy of the design, implementation and results to date and suggest possible modifications or additions that would may improve the accuracy, precision, robustness and/or cost-efficiency of the work being conducted taking into account logistical, feasibility and administrative considerations.
- For each of the scientific components and taking into account the results to date, provide guidance on the timeframe and resources required (and the trade-off between these).
- Provide an overview of the interrelationships, priority and reasonable timeframes for the various components in terms of their contribution to the improvement of the stock assessments, the provision of management advice and the general scientific knowledge of bluefin tuna, taking into account the current resources.
- Provide suggestions for improvements in the logistical and administrative arrangements for future activities taking into account constraints under which the Programme must operate.
- Provide a general review of the current chain of decisions (BFT Species Group, Steering Committee, SCRS and Commission and provide suggestions for improvements and independence, taking into account the respective roles and components and the institutional prerogatives of the two statutory bodies (SCRS and Commission).

The reviewers should take into account the final results from the first three phases of the Programme and any preliminary results from Phase 4 which will be available.

Job description

The review is to be conducted by **two independent reviewers** (i.e., individuals not directly engaged in GBYP activities or who do not have a direct vested interest in the results of the Programme).

The reviewers should be marine scientists, having extensive documented experience and understanding of large - scale fishery research programs for large pelagic fishery resources (preferably with bluefin or other tuna resources) and possibly of stock assessments. International experience will be preferred.

The reviewers shall have an excellent working knowledge of one of the three official languages of ICCAT (English, French, Spanish). A high level of knowledge of English is highly desirable.

The selection of the candidates will be made by the ICCAT Secretariat.

Each reviewer will undertake an independent assessment of the GBYP against the above Terms of Reference.

The two reviewers will then produce a combine report of their findings and conclusions including consensus where it exists and divergent views in other cases.

The review will be based on the consideration of all relevant GBYP and related ICCAT documents (to be provided by the GBYP Coordinator) and via oral and/or written consultations with the GBYP coordinator, the ICCAT Secretariat, relevant GBYP contractors, GBYP Steering Committee members and BFT scientists as the reviewers deem necessary and appropriate. The GBYP Coordinator will assist, as needed, with the facilitation of any such consultations and any other information the reviewers may require.

The reviewers should provide a list and summary of all such contacts as an appendix to their report.

The reviewers should be possibly available to report to the SCRS and/or the Commission, if so required (these additional costs are not included in the budget for this task and will be reimbursed by ICCAT).

Request for bids

Interested scientists should submit an offer to the ICCAT Executive Secretary (driss.meski@iccat.int) by **July 15, 2013**, including:

- a) Full personal details (name, address, education, current position, tax code, etc.) of the applicant.
- b) Bank details.
- c) Curriculum vitae.
- d) Scientific production.
- e) Budget, including honoraria and logistics to attend a maximum of two meetings in Madrid.

Deliverables

The draft report must be submitted no later than **September 15, 2013** and it will be submitted to the SCRS in 2013, and then the final report will be circulated to the Commission.

Payment details

Disbursements will be made according to the following schedule:

1. 30% of the total amount of the contract upon signing of the contract;
2. 20% after the submission of the draft report.
3. 50% after the approval of the final report.

Logistics

All documents provided by the reviewers must be in MS Word or compatible software; tables must be in Excel format or compatible, figures and pictures must be in JPEG or TIFF format or compatible. All documents submitted must be in English, French or Spanish.

Copyright

All of the material produced by the reviewers will remain the property of ICCAT/GBYP and it must be kept confidential.